



MAY 10 2022

Dear Urban Indian Organization Leader:

I am writing to initiate Urban Confer to seek your input and recommendations on the policy directives outlined in President Biden's [Executive Order \(E.O.\) 14053](#), "Improving Public Safety and Criminal Justice for Native Americans and Addressing the Crisis of Missing or Murdered Indigenous People," which was issued on November 15, 2021. This Urban Confer complements Tribal Consultation initiated by the United States (U.S.) Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

As the President noted in the E.O., "Native Americans face unacceptably high levels of violence, and are victims of violent crime at a rate much higher than the national average." HHS made the determination that the focus should be on the root causes of violence to work towards prevention. Section 5 of the E.O. calls on the Secretary of Health and Human Services to Confer with Urban Indian Organizations to develop a comprehensive plan to support prevention efforts that reduce risk factors for victimization of Native Americans and increase protective factors by enhancing the delivery of services to victims, survivors, families, and advocates.

Key elements of the HHS plan must address:

1. Strategies for improving mental and behavioral health;
2. Providing substance abuse services;
3. Providing family support, including high-quality, early childhood programs for victims and survivors with young children;
4. Preventing elder abuse, gender-based violence, and human trafficking; and
5. Strategies to encourage culturally and linguistically appropriate, trauma-informed, and victim-centered service delivery to Native Americans, including for survivors of gender-based violence.

The HHS plan shall also include community-based strategies that improve community cohesion and cultural preservation, as well as educational programs to increase empowerment and self-advocacy.

The IHS wishes to Confer with Urban Indian Organization (UIO) Leaders to solicit your comments and recommendations on policy directives that HHS should include in the Secretary's comprehensive plan.

URBAN CONFER SESSION (VIRTUAL): Please register and join us for a virtual Urban Confer session on *Friday, May 13, 2022*.

VIRTUAL URBAN CONFER SESSION	
Improving Public Safety and Criminal Justice for Native Americans and Addressing the Crisis of Missing or Murdered Indigenous People	
DATE:	Friday, May 13, 2022
TIME:	12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., Eastern Time
REGISTRATION LINK:	https://ihs.gov/zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJItdeGurTgjGm1zBVBSKqn3bDLcOP6xdzk

WRITTEN COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: I would also encourage you to e-mail your comments and recommendations by the Confer comment deadline of **Friday, June 10, 2022**.

- **Please e-mail your comments to:** urbanconfer@ihs.gov
SUBJECT LINE: Policy Directives Outlined in Executive Order 14053

To focus the discussion, the IHS will distribute a series of questions via e-mail to all registered UIO Leaders prior to the Urban Confer session. If you have any questions regarding this Urban Confer, please contact Mr. Rick Mueller, Acting Director, Office of Urban Indian Health Programs, IHS, by telephone at (301) 892-1746, or by e-mail at rick.mueller@ihs.gov.

Thank you for your partnership, as we work together to develop a comprehensive plan to Improve Public Safety and Criminal Justice for Native Americans and Address the Crisis of Missing or Murdered Indigenous People.

Sincerely,

/Elizabeth A. Fowler/
Acting Director